**INTERCHANGE AGREEMENT**

**AFL SAPPHIRE COAST AND AFL CANBERRA**

**MARCH (2026)**

## 1 Area Agreement

1.1 This agreement is made pursuant to the *AFL Canberra* and *AFL Sapphire Coast Rules* and the *National Community Football Policy Handbook* (Clause 3.7 – Interchange Agreements)

## 2 Administrative Processes

2.1 This agreement will remain in place until advised otherwise by the respective Community Football & Competition Managers of the participating Leagues.

2.2 Copies of the Interchange Agreement are to be located on relevant Leagues websites.

2.3 Clubs must use a 'Season Permit' via PlayHQ to lodge all player permit requests.

2.4 Players may only be registered with one (1) Club to utilise the permit system.

2.5 All permits made in line with this Interchange Agreement must be agreed to by:

a. The Player

b. The Player's registered Club

c. The receiving Club

d. Both Leagues

2.6 This Agreement is entered into in good faith to provide development opportunities for Players and not for the purpose of strengthening team performance.

## 3 General Conditions

3.1 All permits made under this agreement must be approved by the Community Football & Competition Manager (or delegate) of both Leagues via PlayHQ.

3.2 A Senior Player is only permitted to play with one (1) club on any weekend or round.

3.3 A Player may only be granted a permit to one (1) AFL Canberra or AFL Sapphire Coast Club per season.

3.4 Clubs may field a maximum of:

a. Two (2) male players and

b. Two (2) female players on permit to their club per round.

3.5 Exemption may be granted for more than two (2) players to permit per round under exceptional circumstances. Clubs are to exhaust all options locally (e.g utilising junior-age eligible players) prior to requesting such an exception

a. The approval process is at the discretion of the destination League.

3.6 Excluding Section 4, permits are only valid whilst both Leagues are still playing home and away matches. Permits are not permitted once either competition has commenced finals

3.7 In the event of a full round bye or an individual team bye in the AFL Canberra or AFL Sapphire Coast competition, no new permits will be issued unless approved by both Leagues under exceptional circumstances.

3.8 Excluding Section 4, games played on permit do not count towards finals eligibility with either Club unless the Player is permanently transferred to the Permit (Destination) Club. Where this occurs, all games played on permit will count towards Finals eligibility for the Permit (Destination) Club.

## 4 Batemans Bay Seahawks AFC Conditions

4.1 These variations aim to assist AFL Sapphire Coast clubs retain players by:

a. providing talented AFL Sapphire Coast players with a development opportunity; and

b. providing AFL Sapphire Coast players who aged out of U17's after the prior season, an opportunity to transition to Senior football via an Under 18's competition;

without requiring a transfer to do so.

4.2 These variations aim to assist Batemans Bay Seahawks improve competitiveness in the Under-18s competitions by:

a. Increasing the catchment of available players to their club who are already regular participants

b. Alleviate initial challenges with the club's teams being new, and their junior pathways still in the infancy of development

4.3 Any player registered to an AFL Sapphire Coast club and is turning 16 or 17 as of 31 December in the year of the Competition may permit to Batemans Bay Seahawks and play an unlimited number of home and away matches on permit in that Season, subject to the following:

a. if eligible, the player must prioritise playing in AFL Sapphire Coast U17's Boys or AFL Sapphire Coast U16's Girls over AFL Canberra Under 18s;

b. if eligible and selected, the player must prioritise playing AFL Sapphire Coast Seniors Women's grade over AFL Canberra Under 18s; and

c. upon application, the Competition Management Committee ('CMC') may grant an exemption from Clause 4.2(i) and 4.2(ii) if the player is unable to play for

their AFL Sapphire Coast club in that round's scheduled match.

4.4 Any player registered to an AFL Sapphire Coast club and is turning 18 as of 31 December in the year of the competition may permit to Batemans Bay Seahawks and play an unlimited number of home and away matches on permit in that Season, subject to the following:

a. if selected, the player must prioritise playing AFL Sapphire Coast Senior Men's or Women's grade over AFL Canberra Under 18s;

b. upon application, the Competition Management Committee ('CMC') may grant an exemption from Clause 4.3(i) if the player is unable to play for their AFL Sapphire Coast club in that round's scheduled match;

c. the player may not play in both AFL Sapphire Coast and AFL Canberra on the same weekend; and

d. Clause 4.3(iii) does not apply to players listed on their AFL Sapphire Coast Club's U17's Overage Player List.

4.5 A player can play a maximum of two (2) Competition matches per round.

4.6 In addition to the two (2) permit players per round allowed under Clause 3.4, Batemans Bay Seahawks are permitted to have an additional two (2) permit players per round, including Finals, to play in their respective AFL Canberra Under-18s team only.

4.7 Prior to Round 1 of the AFL Canberra Under-18s season, Batemans Bay Seahawks are to submit to AFL Canberra a list of up to eight (8) AFL Sapphire Coast players they wish to have considered eligible to play AFL Canberra Under 18s Finals matches on a Season Permit under the interchange Agreement.

a. Batemans Bay Seahawks will have capacity to amend this list and communicate changes to AFL Canberra by no later than 5:00pm on the last Friday of May each season.

4.8 Batemans Bay Seahawks must not use the provisions set out in Clause 4 to recruit players for the subsequent season. AFL Canberra and AFL Sapphire Coast may terminate the agreement at any time should they deem Batemans Bay Seahawks to be breach of any Clause contained within the agreement.

## 5 Reported Players

5.1 A report against a Player on Permit shall be reviewed by the Match Review Panel (MRP) within the competition they were reported in.

5.2 Any Suspension that is imposed shall apply in all competitions as per *AFL Sapphire Coast Rule 30.3* and *AFL Canberra Rule 30.3*.

## 6 Authorisation

6.1 This Agreement shall remain valid until such a time as either League or AFL NSW/ACT dissolves the Agreement.

6.2 Changes can be made to this Agreement from time to time as determined by the Leagues participating in the Interchange Agreement and/or AFL NSW/ACT. Any changes made will be communicated appropriately.